

31.0.0 CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT

31.1.0 Definition

The Caretaker Supplement (CTS) is an additional cash benefit amount paid to parents receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) who care for their dependent children. Assistance groups for this cash benefit are determined by CARES using the Standard Filing Unit (SFU). The Caretaker Supplement is added to the monthly state SSI payment sent to the parent by the Department of Health and Family Services (DHFS).

The Caretaker Supplement program is not a Medicaid program.

31.2.0 Administration

Caretaker Supplement is a program of assistance in CARES. After CTS eligibility and grant amounts are determined by CARES, CARES transmits payment information to EDS via an electronic interface. EDS then issues the Caretaker Supplement benefit as part of the parent's state SSI check.

31.3.0 Eligibility Criteria

1. The child's sole custodial birth or adoptive parent receives SSI or the child lives with both of his/her custodial birth or adoptive parents and both receive SSI. In either circumstance, the caretaker(s) receive one payment per child per month.
2. The child meets financial and non-financial AFDC eligibility criteria based on July 16, 1996 AFDC rules.
3. The child doesn't receive SSI benefits.
4. The CTS case meets child support cooperation requirements.

31.4.0 Non-Marital Co-Parent (NMCP)/ Stepparent Cases

AFDC Filing Units policies that were in effect in 1996 are used to determine the financial eligibility of any child(ren) for CTS. In some situations, the Buening decision may need to be applied. This occurs when the presence of a stepparent or non-marital co-parent (NMCP) causes an assistance group to erroneously fail CTS financial eligibility due to income or assets.

The Buening decision requires that we determine whether a half-sibling of a CTS child meets the definition of a "dependent" child. Any half-sibling that is a dependent

31.0.0 CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT

31.4.0 Non-Marital Co-Parent/Stepparent Cases (cont)

child must be included in the filing unit. A dependent child is a needy child that is deprived of parental care (his/her other parent is not in the home) **and** support. If the NMCP or stepparent, along with the child(ren)-in-common, has sufficient income or assets to support both the NMCP or stepparent and the child(ren)-in-common, the child(ren) is not needy and should not be included in the filing unit.

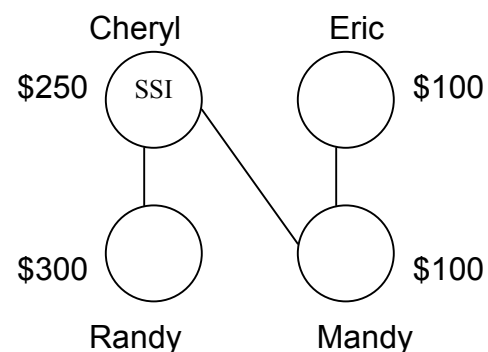
The Buening decision needs to be applied in cases where there is a NMCP or stepparent and a child-in-common in the home and **all** of the following criteria are met:

- The parent with whom the CTS child(ren) lives is receiving SSI.
- The CTS child(ren)'s other parent is absent from the home.
- The parent receiving SSI has a child(ren)-in-common with the NMCP or stepparent who is living in the house.

Use the AFDC financial eligibility criteria to determine whether the child-in-common is dependent.

Example. Cheryl is receiving SSI and has a minor child, Randy. Randy's father does not live in the home. Cheryl is living with her boyfriend, Eric, with whom she has a daughter, Mandy.

Cheryl has \$250 in monthly income, Eric has \$100, Randy has \$300, and Mandy has \$100. Assets do not exceed the \$1000 asset limit.



31.0.0 CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT

31.4.0 Non-Marital Co-Parent/ Stepparent Case (cont)

Mandy is considered a dependent child because the \$200 income of Eric and Mandy is under the budget test income limit for a group size of two (\$440, Area 1).

Randy must be tested for CTS as a group size of three because Mandy is dependent half-sibling. Eric, Randy and Mandy are in one filing unit for CTS. They pass CTS, because the combined income is under the budget test income limit (\$517.60, Area 1) for a group size of three.

Note: Had Randy's eligibility been determined solely for him, he would have failed CTS eligibility for having income in excess of the \$248.80 budget test limit for a group of one.

Example. April is receiving SSI and has a minor child, Betty. Betty's father does not live in the home. April is living with her boyfriend, Carl, with whom she has a daughter, Rachel.

April has \$200 in monthly income, Carl has \$400, Betty has \$200, and Rachel has \$200. Assets do not exceed the \$1000 asset limit.

Betty fails for CTS as a group size of three, because the combined income is over the budget test income limit (\$517.60, Area 1) for a group size of three.

Rachel is not a dependent child, because the \$600 income of Carl and Rachel is over the budget test income limit for a group size of two (\$440, Area 1). Test Betty for CTS as a group size of one. She would pass because her income is under the budget test income limit for a group size of one (\$248.80).

Note: Betty would have failed CTS in CARES as a group size of three, because the combined income of \$800 would have been over the budget test income limit (\$517.60m Area 1) for group size three.

Example. Amanda is receiving SSI and has a minor child, Cindy. Cindy's father does not live in the home. Amanda is living with her boyfriend, David, with whom she has a daughter, Michelle.

Amanda has \$200, and Michelle has \$250. Assets do not exceed the \$1000 asset limit.

31.0.0 CARETAKER SUPPLEMENT

31.4.0 Non-Marital Co-Parent/ Stepparent Case (cont)

David, Cindy and Michelle are in one filing unit for CTS, because Michelle does not qualify as a dependent child. They fail CTS, because the combined income is over the income limit (\$517.60, Area 1) for a group size of three.

Michelle is not considered a dependent child because her financial needs are met (the income of David and Michelle is over the budget test income limit for a group size of two of \$440.00).

David, Cindy, and Michelle must be in one filing unit. Cindy is ineligible for CTS, because the combined \$600 income is over the budget test limit (\$517.60, Area 1) for a group of three

31.5.0 Manual CTS Payments

When CARES fails to make a proper determination of eligibility for CTS or to trigger CTS benefits for months prior to the onset of CTS eligibility in CARES, complete the Authorization for Retroactive Caretaker Supplement (CTS) Form (DWS 12825) and FAX it to EDS at 608-221-0991. Complete CARES screen ACMP to document the manual payment.

31.6.0 Recoupment of Overpayments

To initiate a recoupment of overpaid or incorrect CTS benefits, complete the Authorization for Recoupment Form (DWS 12828) and FAX it to EDS at 608-221-0991. Document the reason for the recoupment in a case comment on CARES screen ACCC.

31.7.0 Notices

CARES sends notices of CTS award, reduction and termination to SSI parents. Individualized notices of manual payment award or denial and recoupment must be prepared and sent by the worker.